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EAST EUROPE BRANCH NOTES

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ROMANIA

Romanians Call For New Socialist Unity

Yesterday's editorial in the Romanian party daily Scinteia sets the stage for the publication later this month of Bucharest's new party program. The program is expected to reiterate and sharpen many of the points made in the so-called "declaration of independence" of April 1964.

The Scinteia editorial appeared against the backdrop of Foreign Minister Macovescu's current visit to Peking and reports of increased Soviet pressure on Bucharest. The paper calls for a new "superior" form of socialist unity to overcome differences and tensions. According to the author, differences between fraternal parties should be resolved in direct party-to-party contacts and in a "spirit of mutual esteem and respect" rather than by condemning each other.

The editorial concludes with what is now standard fare for the Romanians, that party relations must be based on "the rules of full equality among all parties, noninterference in the internal affairs (of others, and the) observance of every party's independence in accordance with the specific conditions of its own country..."

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Romanian Defense Minister Agreeable to US Visit

Defense Minister Ionita told the US ambassador on August 6 that he would welcome and accept an invitation to visit this country. Ionita would be the first post-war Romanian defense minister to come to the US. Ionita said Romania desires to expand military contacts with many nations, including the US and volunteered that he would respond favorably, and reasonably quickly, to a written invitation.

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State Dept. review completed

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